

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

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2 of 10

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🔊 Preventing Backovers in America's Driveways

National Highway Transportation Safety Administration

¹ Vehicle backover injuries and deaths occur when someone, without a driver's knowledge or awareness, is positioned behind a vehicle as the driver is backing out of a driveway or other parking spot. Most victims of backovers are the elderly and children.

² To add to the tragedy of backover injuries and deaths, the driver is often a neighbor or relative. When a child is the victim, the driver may even be the child's mother or father.

³ Since most of these heartbreaking incidents occur in private driveways rather than on the road, they are not typically included in traffic-crash fatality data. Therefore, experts often don't agree on the exact number of children injured or killed in backover incidents each year.

⁴ But even one child who dies from a backover incident is one too many. Awareness and understanding of the problem are the first steps toward reducing the risk of backover deaths.

All Vehicles Have Blind Spots

⁵ In the case of a backover incident, the blind spot is the place behind your vehicle that you cannot see in the rear or side view mirrors — or even by craning your neck out the driver's side window. Generally speaking, the larger the vehicle, the larger the blind spot.

⁶ Blind spots for shorter drivers tend to be significantly larger as well. In addition, the elevation of the driver's seat, the shape of a vehicle's windows and mirrors, and the slope of a driveway can affect the size of the blind spot behind a vehicle. In addition, the smaller stature of children can make them particularly difficult for a driver to see when backing up.

🔊 Based on the passage, you can infer that these accidents are particularly devastating because

🔊	A	victims are often adults.
🔊	B	the driver is often a relative.
🔊	C	there are usually no witnesses.
🔊	D	they happen on private property.

